

Evaluation - Cedarview InfestationUintah and Ouray Indian Reservation

On August 22, 1966, during the annual reconnaissance of the Ashley National Forest and adjacent forest lands the aerial observer reported a mountain pine beetle infestation in ponderosa pine on the Uintah Ouray Indian reservation. From the air the infestation appeared to consist of several small groups scattered between Cedarview reservoir and the southern boundary of the Ashley National Forest. Roy Degler, Indian Agency Forester, spotted the same infestation while flying to a fire and shortly thereafter requested entomological assistance.

Entomologists Kendall Lister and Don Curtis visited the area on September 2. The visit confirmed the aerial survey findings - the "red tops" were ponderosa pine infested by the mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae. At the date of the examination, however, parent gallery construction and egg deposition was still in progress, consequently brood counts and other biological factors affecting brood potential could not be adequately measured. All of the attacks were in sound growth ponderosa pines averaging about 10 inches d.b.h. The new attacks were in or near groups of old faders. The buildup ratio was approximately three new attacks for every old fader. "Pitchouts" were negligible indicating low tree resistance or high insect vigor or both. It is probable that the long, dry summer played a major role in preconditioning the stand for this rapid and successful buildup.

Unless natural factors exert an effective controlling influence or the infestation is abated by artificial means, tree killing could very well increase next year. Previous experience has shown that natural factors cannot be relied on to curb this type of infestation in the early stages. Therefore, if control is not undertaken, as many or possibly more trees will be attacked and killed in 1967.

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